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Women say help service combats isolation and low esteem



Campaign leader Jill Huish, with protesters before a council meeting, says attending a centre helped her become a better parent

MUMS PLEAD FOR CENTRES

CLOSING children's centres in Banbury could have a devastating impact on mothers who rely on them on, claims the woman leading a campaign for their survival.

Jill Huish has used Britannia Road Children's Centre and East Street Centre in Calder Close for the three-and-a-half years, since the birth of her son.

She is campaigning against an Oxfordshire County Council proposal to close all 44 of its children centres, including four in Banbury, under plans to save £8m.

These include the centres in Britannia Road and Calder Close, as well as the Sunshine Centre in Edmunds Road and North Banbury centre in Ferristown. Existing centres would be replaced by eight "family support centres", one of which would be in Banbury, focussing on the most vulnerable.

The centres offer activities for under-fives and information and support for parents. They also deal with problems including alcohol and drug abuse and unemployment.

Former chef Ms Huish, 33, who also has a one-year-old daughter, said: "I was quite vulnerable when my son was born, but the centres gave me so much support and took me in."

Kieran Davey
kdavey@nqo.com

"The staff would always encourage me to better myself and become a better parent as a result. I was struggling with the fact that I didn't really know anyone. I also worked full time and weekends, so it could be quite isolating."

As a campaigner with Save Oxfordshire's Children's Centres, Ms Huish is working with centre staff and unions to fight the council's plans.

Victoria Prentis, MP for North Oxfordshire, said she had met councillors and called for all those affected to take part in the public consultation.

She said: "I have seen first-hand how centres deliver far more than a space for children to meet and play; offering professional advice and expertise, guidance to troubled families, and generally a supportive face and attitude for all who enter."

This week, the cabinet is due to back a public consultation looking at three options.

These include the creation of eight centres, continuing some universal services at the eight centres but reducing "outreach work", and providing

six centres and £1m in grant funding to support community-run services.

One Banbury mother, who suffered abuse from her ex-partner and did not want to be named, said: "The centres helped me to combat the isolation and degradation that I had felt."

Jo Hobbs, a former chairwoman of Friends of Britannia Road Children's Centre, said: "The services are already stretched."

Melinda Tilley, council cabinet member for children and families, said: "This is illustrative of the stark financial challenges councils are facing. We do not have the money we had in 2010."

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Nursery expands

BANBURY: A former nightclub in Horsefair is set to be converted into extra space for a nursery later this month.

Childfirst Nursery, based in the former Banbury Museum building, provides for those aged three months to five years.

It has purchased the Phoebe Nightclub, itself a former church, and is due to move into the refurbished building in October.

Childfirst also runs a nursery in Bicester. For more information, visit childfirst.co.uk.

Recycling charge

OXON: Councillors plan to ask the government to allow a charge for use of recycling centres to prevent seven services closing in the county.

Conservative county councillor Kevin Bulmer tabled a motion to ask the communities and local government minister to "enable local authorities to charge residents to use household waste recycling centres, in order to prevent closure".

Labour councillor John Tanner said the service should be free at point of use.

The Liberal Democrats voted with the Tory-led council, which meant 39 councillors voted yes, and 16 voted no.

Motorway crash

OXON: A crash between two cars blocked two lanes of the M40 southbound last Thursday.

South Central Ambulance Service said paramedics were called at 4.50pm.

Traffic queued between junction 10 for Brackley and junction nine for Bicester until 7.30pm.

Knitting for charity

BANBURY: Katharine House Hospice wants volunteers to make and donate a patchwork quilt for its Christmas raffle.

Money raised will support the charity's work with people who have life-limiting illnesses.

For more information, email sarahbrennan@khh.org.uk.

Attack in car park

BANBURY: A man, 26, was attacked in a car park outside a furniture store at Banbury Cross Retail Park.

Thames Valley Police said there was an altercation between two drivers outside Benson for Beds at 3.25pm on August 30.

The attacker got out of his car to approach the victim, who was in his car, then punched his face.

The attacker, believed to be in his late 40s or early 50s, was white, about 6ft and had light brown hair.

Traditional 'bra dancers' are the apple of everyone's eye at annual cider festival



BODICOTE Morris were among the groups which helped visitors enjoy a fun day at the Bo Peep Cider Festival in Adderbury, near Banbury.

The annual event featured performances from bands including The Meanies, The Keys, Get Loose and Red Crow, as well as giving people the opportunity to try more

than 100 different types of cider. Visitors to the event at Bo Peep Caravan Park in Aynho Road also got the chance to take a ride on a horse and cart and visit stalls

selling clothes, CDs and jewellery. Bodicote Morris added their traditional "bra dance" to the proceedings on Sunday, with handkerchiefs swapped for bras.

New £850,000 fleet gives improved route to Oxford



New buses will go to Magdalen Street in Oxford

Kieran Davey
kdavey@nqo.com

BUS users in Banbury will be able to travel to Oxford more frequently following changes to the Stagecoach service.

The company has introduced a new fleet of buses for its S4 Gold service, which runs between Banbury town centre and Magdalen Street in the centre of Oxford.

Stagecoach has invested £850,000 in the buses, which will travel through Banbury, and south to Adderbury, Deddington and Kidlington on their way towards the city.

The managing director of Stagecoach Oxfordshire, Martin Sutton, said: "Over the last 10 years, we have seen the numbers of people using this service more than double.

"We are conscious that there has been a lot of building development in Banbury, particularly new homes.

"These changes are part of a long process of seeing how we can persuade more people to

use our routes, through listening very closely to what our passengers have to say."

The new buses will feature hand-stitched Italian leather high-back seats, increased legroom and free wifi connection for passengers.

Stagecoach says the vehicles will provide easy access for customers, with a low-level floor to help people with pushchairs and wheelchairs to get on and off.

Mr Sutton said: "As part of our Gold service, we ensure each of our drivers is trained to provide a five-star customer service experience.

"We also ensure each driver is a regular on the route. This provides customers with a consistent level of service with drivers who are extremely knowledgeable in the area."

Under the new service, the frequency of buses from Banbury to Deddington will increase from hourly to every 30 minutes.

Mr Sutton said the company was also looking at proposals to

cut journey times between Banbury and Oxford.

The new fleet will join four other Stagecoach Gold services already running in Oxfordshire – in Bicester, Carterton, Chipping Norton and Witney.

The buses were unveiled yesterday in Bridge Street, outside the entrance to Castle Quay shopping centre.

To celebrate the launch, a human statue – dressed head-to-toe in gold – was employed to attract the attention of passers-by.

People could take selfies with the statue and upload them to social media.

In a contest launched by the bus company, the selfie with the most online shares will win its subject a £100 prize.

In another promotion to mark the launch, S4 drivers will hand out a weekly golden ticket to a customer at a particular time on a specific day. Each golden ticket holder will be able to collect £100 and a Stagecoach Megarider Gold seven-day pass.

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Boy earns driving medal

Daniel, 14, named among UK's top young drivers with third place finish in contest

Kieran Davey
kdavey@nqo.com

A BOY of 14 has been named one of the UK's best young drivers three years before he can officially take to the road.

Daniel Blake, of Warkworth Close, Banbury, took part in the Young Driver Challenge and won the bronze medal in his age group.

A total of 40 finalists from around the UK descended on the NEC in Birmingham and competed in two age categories, 11 to 13 and 14 to 16.

Daniel came third out of 20 entrants in the 14 to 16 age category, winning a place on Young Driver's Prodrive Skills Day and five Young Driver lessons.

The North Oxfordshire Academy student has been a fan of supercars since he was young and has dreamed of buying a Porsche Carrera GT when he is old enough to drive on the road.

He said: "It was fantastic taking part in the final and I'm very proud of my achievement."

"To even be in the top 20 for my age group was just a great feeling, let alone to then come third."

Finalists for the event on September 5 were selected from hundreds of youngsters who entered the challenge, run by Young Driver, which provides pre-17 driving lessons.

Those who entered had to complete an online road safety test and take a practical assessment



Daniel Blake, 14, had to take a Fiat through a series of tasks while competing in the 2015 Young Driver Challenge final with a qualified instructor.

Drivers had to complete a series of manoeuvres in a Fiat model similar to the official driving test, including parallel parking, reversing, emergency stops and turns in the road, as well as independent driving.

Daniel said: "It was great fun to put everything I've learnt in my lessons into practice and to be given the opportunity to get even more experience."

"Young Driver has given me a good

understanding of how to drive and how to be safe on the roads, which will be really useful when I turn 17."

Judging the competition were representatives from the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM), Admiral, Goodyear and high-profile driving instructors.

Daniel impressed them with his control of the vehicle, precise manoeuvres and quick thinking behind the wheel.

Kim Stanton, who leads the Young

Driver scheme, said: "I'd like to say a huge well done to all of our finalists and of course to Daniel who did amazingly well."

"They gave a fantastic demonstration of just how good a driver a young person can be and they should be very proud of their skills behind the wheel."

The Young Driver scheme was set up in 2009 to help create safer newly-qualified drivers.

See youngdriver.eu for more.

Top canoeist visit

BANBURY: Olympic gold medalist Tim Baillie has visited Cherwell Canoe Club in his role as a Sport England Sporting Champion.

Mr Baillie, who won the C2 canoeing event at London 2012, met members at Woodgreen Leisure Centre to talk about his sporting experiences and how to attract young people into sport.

The visit, on September 9, was organised by Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire Sports Partnership as part of Sport England's lottery-funded Sportivate initiative.

Chairman sought

N OXON: A countryside campaign group wants a new chairman for its southern Cherwell group.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England's chairman will help coordinate activities in Bicester, Kidlington, the Heyfords, Otmoor and surrounding areas.

The role is voluntary and requires a few hours of work each week.

For more information, see cpreoxon.org.uk.

Royal opening

OXON: The new headquarters for Oxfordshire's fire service have been officially opened by the Earl of Wessex.

Prince Edward visited Newsham Court, Calcot, on September 8, where he was given a tour of the site and met staff.

The headquarters is home to Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, which shares its control room with the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service and Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire and Rescue Service.

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(Ofsted, 2013)

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Heritage centre visit for students restoring vehicles

STUDENTS training to restore classic vehicles have marked the end of their first year of studies with a trip to Bicester Heritage.

A mixture of apprentices and full-time learners are enrolled on the new two-year programme at Banbury and Bicester College.

The training scheme was launched in September 2014 after a survey of 104 businesses by the Federation of British Historical Vehicle Clubs (FBHVC) found that at least 1,000 new apprenticeships would be needed in the next five years to replace an ageing workforce.

During the trip on September 1, the students looked at a range of classic cars, motorcycles and aeroplanes housed at the former RAF bomber station.

John Kelly, the head of learning for engineering and motor vehicles at Banbury and Bicester College, said: "The visit meant our first year apprentices and students were able to see how their recently-acquired skills can translate into employment and future careers."

"Some of the vehicles we saw were extremely rare and significant in automotive history."

"For students to get a chance to view them and chat to the experts about restoring them was an invaluable experience."

"It was an opportunity for our students to talk to professionals who are as enthusiastic about classic vehicles as they are."

At the end of the two years, the students will receive a diploma in classical vehicle restoration.

For more information on the course, visit banbury-bicester.ac.uk/classic-vehicle-restoration-apprenticeship.

Birthday tea and tunes mark 130 years of charity work by Army's volunteers

MORE than a century of charity work was celebrated on Saturday with tea, cake and a concert for the Banbury Salvation Army.

The organisation staged a Big Birthday Tea with more than 100 volunteers and residents celebrating 130 years of the group.

Parades and a praise concert followed, with performances from the Salvation Army African Praise Choir and a brass band.

Organisers hosted the celebratory event to help thank volunteers and members of the community for their continued support for the group.

Lieutenant Xander Coleman has worked at the charity for the past four years alongside his wife Vanessa.

He said: "It was a really great day, amazing and everyone really enjoyed themselves."

"The African choir was brilliant and a highlight, or a blessing. The town mayor also popped in and MP Victoria Prentis also which was nice."

The Banbury Salvation Army has been based at 66 George Street for about 125 years. There are about a dozen regular volunteers who raise money and distribute food and essentials to homeless people. They also run a food bank.



Town Mayor Tony Mepham joins in a performance at the Salvation Army party

GP and shops for estate

Council approves facilities as new development grows

Kieran Davey
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A DOCTORS' surgery and nursery are among the first facilities planned for residents at the new Longford Park development in Banbury.

Cherwell District Council has also announced plans to build a convenience store, three retail units and eight apartments on the site.

The facilities will form part of

the wider Longford Park development, off Oxford Road to the south of Banbury.

Up to 1,070 homes will be built on the site which has previously been criticised by residents for reducing the green space between themselves and the town.

Michael Gibbard, the council's lead member for planning, said: "With the first homes now occupied and construction work fully under way for the rest of the site, it is important to address the provision of facilities to serve the new and future residents."

"With major developments of this size it is not enough to provide hundreds of homes - developers

need to provide the amenities and facilities which residents require."

"The provision of health care, child care and retail amenities such as a convenience store is to be applauded and will meet the basic and fundamental needs of residents."

The application, submitted by developers Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire, sought permission for two local centre buildings.

The building on the west of the site will house the convenience store, doctors' surgery and apartments.

To the east, the other building will offer the nursery, retail units and further apartments.

Ron Glynn, chairman of the parish council at Bodicote, near the development, has previously said: "Bodicote has become the dumping ground for the large amount of housing dictated by the Government and the future for the village as a rural retreat looks bleak."

In July, Cherwell District Council adopted the Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031, which maps out the district's housing strategy for the next 20 years.

When granting approval for the new facilities, councillors imposed conditions that the retail units should not be combined, and that work must begin within five years.

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Apprenticeship drive as firms told to meet growing town needs

A FREE event explaining the benefits of employing apprentices to local businesses will be held tonight in Banbury.

The session, called Making Sense of Apprenticeships, will encourage firms not currently running apprenticeships to learn more and consider their options.

It has been organised by Banbury Chamber of Commerce and Oxfordshire Apprenticeships, a county council-funded initiative, and comes after the Government pledged three million new apprenticeship places over the next five years.

Oxfordshire Apprenticeships manager Sarah Cullimore said: "We're really pleased to be running an event in Banbury."

"With considerable infrastructure growth planned for Banbury, Bicester and across North Oxfordshire affecting sectors like construction, retail and engineering, the need for quality apprenticeships will be greater than ever. It is important that we continue to help businesses make sense of it."

A panel of experts including employers and apprentices will be on hand to answer questions.

Among them will be Banbury solicitors firm Bretherton's, who were recognised in the Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers list in 2014.

A spokesman from Banbury Chamber of Commerce said: "Banbury Chamber is receiving more and more enquiries from local businesses about apprenticeships."

"We also get enquiries from young people themselves on what local companies have schemes."



Alec Thorp outside the new London landmark, a sixth form independent school

Alec adds landmark to London

Banbury bursar directs construction of college building in the capital

Naomi Herring
nherring@nqo.com

A NEW London college building has opened after two years of construction under the watchful eye of Banbury man Alec Thorp.

Mr Thorp, of Fallow Way, took on management of the build in his role as bursar for the DLD College London, which describes itself as "more like a 'pre-university' experience than a school".

As project manager, Mr Thorp has overseen the creation of the new building in Westminster, opposite Big Ben, leading up to its opening to sixth form students on September 3.

He said: "It is so exciting to see the college coming together.

It truly is a masterpiece, with an unrivalled learning environment for the students.

"I am so proud to have been given the opportunity to be a part of a stunning creation."

"I will be able to walk past it with my grandchildren one day and tell them that I played a part in the construction of that beautiful landmark."

The new building, in Westminster Bridge Road, has been designed to bring together the college's former campuses in Marylebone and Belgravia, to house its 440 students.

The design, which was also managed by Mr Thorp, includes six laboratories, art, music and media suites, a 100-seat theatre and nearly 40 classrooms.

It also houses 215 en-suite rooms for student accommodation.

The principal of the college, Rachel Borland, said: "Alec has been highly instrumental in developing the new building and it looks incredible."

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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



Choosing a new pet?

Which breed suits you best?

Now the summer is ending and life is settling back into its usual routine, the thought of bringing a new pet into your household may have crossed your mind. This time of year is often quite

a good one for many owners to take on new arrivals; children are back at school and the summer holidays are over, the weather is still nice and the nights aren't drawing in too much.

If you are thinking about taking on a new dog or cat, please make sure you put just as much thought (if not more) into which breed you select as you do into any of the other exciting decisions that come with the arrival of your new pet, such as choosing its name! Try not to follow your heart and pick a breed which you have always dreamt of owning, or one you have chosen based on looks alone. Instead, sit down with everyone you live with and discuss your requirements carefully.

Only once you have identified all of your own needs will you be able to best select a breed to sensibly suit those needs. This should be the breed that will have the greatest chance of settling well into your unique daily routine.

Some of the questions you may want to mull over together, with those you live with could include:

- How will you tend to your pet throughout the day/night – will someone be there for them most of the time?
- Who will the pet live with? Just adults or other pets, children, under 5s the elderly or disabled?
- What coat-type will your pet have? Do you have the time to groom a long-haired pet every day or would you be better suited to a breed whose maintenance needs are less intensive?
- What size is your house? Will your pet have access to a garden? Do you live near any busy roads that could impact upon your new pet?
- Does anyone in your house have an allergy? Is a dog or cat an appropriate choice of pet? Would a breed that sheds less be better suited to you?

And there are also of course some points which are unique to whether you'd like a cat:

- Are you planning on raising an indoor cat, an outdoor cat or both?
- What are the activity levels like in the breed you were thinking of? Will you have sufficient time to interact with your pet?
- What is the cat's nature like in the breed you were thinking of? Is it very restful, very vocal and sociable with humans, very independent or very playful?

Or a dog:

- What are the energy levels of the breed you are thinking of? Is it a breed that needs several hours of intense exercise per day or is it a breed that would be happy with 30 minutes lead walk twice daily?
- Do you want a dog that you can train easily? These dogs may excel at sports like agility and fly ball but will demand a lot more time to engage with you every day.
- What size of dog were you thinking of? Can you afford the additional expense in terms of food and vet care that increase as the size of the dog increases?
- How noisy is the breed you are thinking of getting? Is this a good choice for you given the proximity of your neighbours?

Once you have confirmed your needs and wants for your new pet, then is the time to sit down with a breed encyclopaedia and have a look for yourself. If you're thinking about a new dog, you could also see if there are any "discover dogs" events running near you. These events offer you the opportunity to meet the dogs and talk to their breeders directly.

Obviously, there will be some variation between individual cats and dogs, even within those of the same breed. However, with a little bit of forward planning you can easily find the most suitable breed for you. Or, if you want to take on a mixed-breed one-in-a-million, you can still ensure that you look at the characteristics of all the breeds in that mix, to give you some idea of your new companion's personality. After all, your pet will be spending the rest of its life with you; so you should do everything you can to make sure you will be compatible, before you commit to a lifetime together!



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Barmaid expects scrum for her World Cup brew

Pub's apprentice cooks up new ale to celebrate start of finals fixtures this weekend

Alex Regan
aregan@nqo.com

A BARMAID hopes to bring merriment to England's Rugby World Cup campaign with a new brew she created which was inspired by a famous chant.

Pear Tree Inn pint puller Kitty Wright spent last week working at the Hook Norton Brewery to produce her own pale ale.

The 19-year-old got the chance to do it as part of her apprenticeship in food and drink services, which she started at the pub in August.

The Hook Norton resident's brew is called Sweet Chariot, inspired by the famous hymn and rugby chant.

She said: "Last month my boss told me I had the chance to make my own brew, and I couldn't wait to get in there and do it. The beer has a sweet taste. It will be about 3.8 to four per cent alcohol content.

"We decided to call it Sweet Chariot because of the taste, and because the Rugby World Cup is coming up."



Kitty Wright shows her boss, landlord John Bellinger, her brew, Sweet Chariot, a "balanced and fruity beer to appeal to a more delicate palate"; Kitty adds in the hops to her recipe at the Hook Norton Brewery, right

The former Chipping Norton School student had to mash grains into water and create a mash tun, which is then boiled to create the beer.

She said: "It was quite a lot of hard work with the mashing and the cleaning of the equipment, but I really enjoyed the process."

Miss Wright was guided through



the process by master brewers at Hook Norton.

Her brew is now ready and will be served at the Pear Tree Inn between September 24 and October 4.

Patients' opinions

OXON: Doctors have issued a rallying call to get more patients involved in how their surgeries are run.

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) is urging people to sign up to GP surgery's patient participation groups (PPG).

PPGs are made up of surgery patients and work with the practices to help improve services such as car parking.

Members will be given the chance to learn more about how the wider NHS works, as well as sharing their views with the OCCG to help improve regional services.

No experience is necessary; to sign up contact your GP surgery or visit its website.

Night market

BANBURY: The town centre will be transformed into a special Friday night market tomorrow from 6pm until 11pm.

Businesses in and around Market Place will join market traders for an evening of entertainment, food and shopping.

The event has been organised by the town's team coordinators with market operator Sketts, supported by Cherwell District Council and the Visit Banbury initiative.

There is a walking tour of the town, performances, live music and magic acts.

Council review

OXON: A committee is to discuss how Oxfordshire County Council will run without its chief executive.

Joanna Simons is due to leave later this month, but she will not be immediately replaced. Instead a review of senior management is to be carried out, although no details have been revealed.

The council's audit and governance committee will be in talks this week.



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Parade in tribute to 'few'

Iconic Spitfire fighter flies past twice as military salute the Battle of Britain tribute

Naomi Herring
nherring@nqo.com

MILITARY and civic groups in Banbury paraded through the town to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

Personnel lined up in Broad Street before marching to St Mary's Church to honour the heroes of the air battle in 1940, which was thought to be a turning point in the Second World War.

Winston Churchill made it clear how he felt about their contribution when he said in August that year: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Following the service, crowds gathered to watch a low level flypast over Horsefair by an iconic Spitfire fighter plane before the military personnel made their salute to round off the celebrations.

Jacqui Broadbent and her family watched son Samuel Fayker, 13, perform with 1460 Banbury Squadron Air Training Corps.

She said: "Samuel only joined the RAF cadets in Banbury recently and this was his first parade where he played an instrument."

"He was so thrilled afterwards and grinning from ear to ear, as were the rest of the cadets. There were lots watching and everyone



The parade passes an honour guard outside St Mary's

gave a big cheer. The flypast was really good. They flew over twice."

Banbury Town Council leader Kieron Mallon said: "Banbury was strategically important to the RAF during the Second World War. The town was at the centre of a num-

ber of wartime airfields, including RAF Heyford, Barford St John, Shenington, Hinton-in-the-Hedges, Enstone, Greatworth, Finmere, Turweston, Silverstone, Chipping Warden, Croughton and Gaydon. We shouldn't forget that Banbury's



Dignitaries head into the church; Samuel Fayker of the ATC



The parade passes Banbury Town Hall in Bridge Street

now-closed aluminium factory was important in the manufacture of planes for the RAF, including Spitfires.

"It is right and proper that we should pay tribute each year to those who fought for our freedom."

Crowds flock to honour our battle heroes

WELL-wishers gathered in other ceremonies across Oxfordshire to honour the heroes of the 1940 Battle of Britain at the weekend.

Service personnel also paid tribute to those who defended Britain's skies from Germany.

Marking the milestone in Banbury were military and civic groups, lined up in Broad Street for a march to St Mary's Church for a memorial service.

In Witney, a Freedom of the Town march included personnel from RAF Brize Norton carrying ceremonial weapons.

People lined the streets cheering as the parade went through the town with a C130 Hercules flypast to follow.

Warrant Officer Tony Dunn, based at Brize Norton, said: "The plan was to have the C130 fly past at the end of the national anthem, which I think we achieved. The hairs were standing up on the back of my neck as it flew over and all the applause makes it worthwhile."

Airmen who gave their lives for the country, but not in the Battle of Britain, were honoured at a service in Wallingford.

People laid wreaths for two Canadian airmen who died in 1944 when a Halifax bomber of the Royal Canadian Air Force caught fire over the town.

Flying Officer John Wilding and engineer Sgt John Andrew flew the bomber away from the town before it crashed into fields.

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EVEREST (12A, 131 mins) An action/romance with Jason Clarke, Josh Brolin, Emily Watson, Keira Knightley, Jake Gyllenhaal. Director: Baltasar Kormakur

ICELANDIC director Baltasar Kormakur heads for Earth's highest peak in a gripping drama based on true events, which cast a shadow over the mountaineering community in 1996.

Penned by William Nicholson and Simon Beaufoy, award-winning scribes of *Gladiator* and *Slumdog Millionaire*, *Everest* is a slick recreation of an ill-fated ascent to 29,029ft above sea level, where altitude sickness stalks the most experienced climbers.

The air is too thin for helicopter rescue, so all that separates expeditions from an icy grave is the flame of the human spirit.

Rob Hall (Jason Clarke) and Scott Fischer (Jake Gyllenhaal) lead rival expeditions, racing each other and the elements.

Unlike his rival, Rob takes a fastidious, cautious approach promising pregnant wife Jan (Keira Knightley) he will return for the baby's birth.

His clients include a journalist, a postman, a doctor and a climber attempting to be the second Japanese woman to reach the summits of the highest mountains on all seven continents.

As the teams approach the summit, a fierce storm rumbles, threatening to trap the climbers. It's not always easy to distinguish characters when tragedy strikes, but there is no escaping the suspense.

3D adds a vertiginous, stomach-churning extra dimension as the camera swoops around characters clambering on rickety ladders across crevasses.



A WALK IN THE WOODS (15, 104 mins) A comedy/romance with Robert Redford, Nick Nolte, Emma Thompson, Mary Steenburgen. Director: Ken Kwapis

IOWA-born journalist Bill Bryson has popularised the art of travel writing. His affectionate tour of the British Isles for *Notes From A Small Island* painted a rich and hilarious portrait.

Bryson then hiked the US Appalachian Trail with friend Stephen Katz, providing inspiration for his book *A Walk In The Woods*. This film retains his wry humour and provides Nick Nolte with a peach of a part as the crotchety sidekick of Bryson (Robert Redford).

BILL (PG, 94 mins) A comedy/romance from the *Horrible Histories* stars. Director: Richard Bracewell

AN UNTOLD chapter in the life of England's greatest dramatist is revealed in this unabashedly silly romp, laden with cross-dressing, smut and the odd fact.

Scripted by Laurence Rickard and Ben Willbond, *Bill* has Shakespeare (Mathew Baynton) as a self-doubting dreamer, who squanders his talent in a boy band called Mortal Coil.

With regular collaborators Simon Farnaby, Martha Howe-Douglas and Jim Howick they all don frocks, codpieces and fake moustaches to portray the motley crew of misfits.

Everest stars Jake Gyllenhaal, Jason Clarke and Josh Brolin tackle the peak; Robert Redford goes for *A Walk In The Woods* with Nick Nolte, below right; the *Horrible Histories* alumni, below left, find a new way to tell William Shakespeare's tale



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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director James Miller feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 10 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and James is finding that his approach is a major factor

in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for,

which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give James a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



Cake Bookworm

Sweet Caress: The Many Lives Of Amory Clay by William Boyd, hardback by Bloomsbury, £18.99 (ebook £7.79)

BOYD'S latest novel has been eagerly awaited. His protagonist, a little-known photographer, is in many ways a rather unexceptional and prosaic figure although inspiring and pioneering in her own way. Boyd's skill is to take what is a full, yet not necessarily extraordinary, life and make it into extraordinary fiction. Fiction that instinctively pulls you in. The story of Amory Clay takes in late twenties London, early thirties Berlin and New York, Europe in the Second World War and the Vietnam War, albeit on the peripheries. Supplementing it all is a collection of anonymous found photos that give the novel a quasi-autobiographical feel. To borrow from Amory's favourite parlour game and sum up this novel, it would be: panoramic, evocative, captivating and accomplished.

Purity by Jonathan Franzen, hardback by 4th Estate, £20 (ebook £12.99)

FRANZEN'S latest novel arrives with great expectations after a five-year wait. Putative heroine Pip Tyler is searching for her father's identity, drawing her into the orbit of the Wikileaks-esque Sunlight Foundation and its charismatic founder. Franzen's successes owe much to a warm, autobiographical humanity, combined with a deceptive lightness of touch amidst weighty issues and rigorous prose. Here that deftness is only intermittently present, his focus so heavily on the what that he neglects the how. The parallel families depicted are repetitious. Tech culture seems to take Franzen uncomfortably far from his comfort zone. There are highlights, a sweaty-palmed crime is compelling, a college romance believably hilarious, but lingering hopes are quashed by a final, clumsy lurch into psychological thriller.

The Outsider: My Life In Intrigue by Frederick Forsyth, hardback by Bantam Press, £20 (ebook £8.03)

WRITER of *The Day Of The Jackal* Forsyth has made headlines with this book, in which he reveals that while a reporter behind the Iron Curtain, in Africa in the 1960s, he had an occasional sideline with MI6. These are matters only mentioned in passing in what is ultimately an adventure focusing on his pre-Jackal days as a Reuters reporter at the height of the Cold War, then as a BBC staffer and freelancer in Biafra. It's full of derring-do, be it battling Communists or being embedded with Biafran rebels in the short-lived but horrific Nigerian civil war in the late 1960s, an assignment that seems to have deeply affected him since. Indeed it sometimes feels amazing Forsyth ever sits still long enough to write novels as a lifelong desire to go see the world runs like a pulse throughout the book.

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Oxfordshire Listings

Events

THURSDAY

Charlbury Debating Society: A public meeting at the village's Memorial Hall on how Charlbury and residents might respond to the refugee crisis by offering shelter and support to those fleeing conflict in Syria and elsewhere. People are invited to come with ideas and suggestions. 7.30pm. Donations on the door

Picture a Garden: As we approach autumn and the season of the harvest festival is September's exhibition at WestOx Arts Gallery, Market Squire, Bampton, explores the contemporary artist's response to the garden. Runs until Sunday. Free. 01993 850137.

Dancing Lines: Exhibition at Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot. Capturing the energy of live movement, dancer Aimée Payton has evolved the Dancing Lines project through a series of experimental drawing workshops in which artists draw, paint and mark-make to emulate the experience of watching of live dance and the movements made. Gallery opening hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10am-6pm, Sunday 11am-4pm, closed Monday. Free admission. 01235 515144.

Urban settings: An exhibition of abstract paintings by Ira Hoffecker. in response to cities, staged at the Sewell Centre Gallery, Radley College, Abingdon. Free. 01235 543039.

FRIDAY

OktoberFest: There will be more than 80 real ales and ciders, at £2.50 a pint, at this event organised by Chinnor RFC on Friday and Saturday. There will be live music on Saturday. The opening match of the Rugby World Cup, England v Fiji, will be shown on giant screens on Friday evening. Weekend pass £10.

Agatha Christie Weekend: Three-day event celebrating the 125th anniversary of the birth of the crime writer, who lived in Cholsey. On Friday at 7.30pm at the Corn Exchange, Wallingford, there will be a talk by Judy Dewey, curator of the town museum, followed by the film *Agatha*, a fictional account of her disappearance in 1926, starring Dustin Hoffman and Vanessa Redgrave. Tickets £8 from the Corn Exchange or cornexchange.org.uk Over the weekend, the exhibition At Home with the Queen of Crime will be staged at Wallingford Museum. Adults £4, children free.

Abingdon Farmers' Market: Variety of stalls selling local produce, at Market Place. Starts at 8.30am.

Beer and sausage festival: Selection of real ale and cider from around Oxfordshire, including new breweries, plus sausages, at The Cricketers Arms, Littleworth, Wheatley. Starts at noon. Free entry. Also Sunday. 01865 872738.

Street fair: Weekend of events in Charlbury, with this year's event celebrating the primary school's bicentenary. On Friday, there will be an egg-throwing challenge outside the Rose and Crown pub for ages 10 and over, with free registration from 6pm, event from 6.30pm. On Saturday, there will be a fair featuring stalls, children's entertainment and an exhibition. Charlbury Art Society members and primary school children, who took part in a competition, will be showing their work at the village's memorial hall on Friday 7-9.30pm and Saturday 10am-5.30pm (free entry).

SATURDAY

The People's Feast: St Mary the Virgin Church, Shipton-under-Wychwood, is marking its 900th year with this event is for families, taking place in the church yard and vicarage garden, starting at 4pm. There will be a variety of entertainment, themed workshops, hog roast and music. Visitors are invited to dress in medieval costume if they wish. Adults £15, under 16s £10, under fives free, families £40.

Agatha Christie Weekend: Three-mile guided walk from Wallingford to her home in Cholsey with local historians Judy Dewey and Tony Rayner, returning on the railway. Starts at Wallingford Museum in High Street at 10am. £10 including rail fare and entrance to exhibitions. From 11am-4pm on Saturday and Sunday, the exhibition Agatha Christie and Cholsey will run at the Old School, Cholsey (entry £2), and you can visit her church, St Mary's, where she is buried. At 7.30pm, there will be a folk music concert at St Mary's. £8, including a drink. Book tickets for the walk and concert at wallingfordmuseum.org.uk There will be an hourly rail service between Wallingford and Cholsey – see cholsey-wallingford-railway.com

Charity spinathon: The event at Willowbrook Leisure Centre, off Avon Way, Didcot, will raise money Play2Give, with proceeds to Oxford Children's Hospital and Headway Oxfordshire. £5 per person or £25 for a team of six – call 01235 812058. There will be a bouncy castle, face painting and cake stall. Starts at 9am.

WJ jumble sale: Plenty of bargains and lovely refreshments at Wootton and Dry Sandford Community Centre, Besselsleigh Road, Wootton. 1.30pm. Entry 50p.

SUNDAY

Agatha Christie Weekend: Three-mile guided walk from The Forty, Cholsey, to Wallingford, with local author Tony Rayner at 9.30am, returning by railway. £8. There will also be a walk in the other direction, starting at Wallingford Museum at 10am and led by Judy Dewey. £10. Book at wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

Ride for Ryder: Choice of three routes around the beautiful countryside of the Chilterns in aid of Nettlebed Hospice – 10, 25 or 60 miles. Registration fees £10-£20. Participants are also asked to raise a minimum of £100, to go to Sue Ryder Duchess of Kent and Nettlebed hospices. See sueryder.org/rideforrydernettlebed or call 01491 641384.

Country crafts: Displays of craft skills at the steam and water-powered sawmill and workshop at Combe Mill, Blenheim Palace Sawmill, Long Hanborough. There will be displays of basket making, logging, spinning and weaving, plus Morris dancing, and steam and water powered machinery will also be working. 10am. Adults £7, concessions £5, under fives free, families £19. 01993 358694.

Charlbury 10K: Annual run through Cornbury Park. For further details, email info@charlburystreetfair.org

Nature park open day: Guided walks around Boundary Brook, Oxford, plus stalls with native wild plants. Wheelchair access. 2pm. Free admission. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adul. 01865 820522.

National Gardens Scheme: Waterperry Gardens has eight acres of landscaped gardens, including rose and

To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events

Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.

formal knot, a water lily canal, riverside walk and one of the country's finest herbaceous borders. There is also a plant centre, garden shop, teas, art gallery, museum and Saxon church. Homemade teas. Wheelchair access. 10am-5.30pm. Adults £6.80, children free. 01844 339226.

Second Lease Walk: The group is offering a choice of a nine-mile walk via Chedworth and Withington or a 4.75-mile walk taking in Great Barrington and Windrush Manor Farm. Meet at car park, Woodford Way, Witney, for car sharing. 9.30am. 01993 774500.

Oxford Treasure Hunt: Solve clues, take photographs and compete in challenges, before meeting your fellow competitors to find out who won. Sights along the walk, which will last up to three hours, will be the colleges, the Ashmolean Museum and Sheldonian Theatre. Start at Waterstones, Broad Street, Oxford, at 1pm. Adults £10, children £5. 07990 578200.

MONDAY

The Religion of Love: Jane Clark will give an introduction to the poet and mystic Muhyiddin Ibn Arabi (1165-1240) at Wallingford Spiritual Cafe, Methodist Church hall, St. Leonard's Square, Wallingford. 7.15pm. £4.

Family history: Talk by Les Mitchinson, hosted by the Vale of the White Horse branch of Berkshire Family History Society: on providing guidance on research. Held at Long Furlong Community Centre, Boulter Drive, Abingdon. 7.30pm. 07851 206313.

TUESDAY

Active Forever: Multi-activity sport and social club for the over 60s at The Park Club Milton, Croft Drive, Milton Park. Keep fit, have fun and meet new people. 10am. £2 non-members. 01235 206777

Floral demonstration: Sally Harding will give a presentation entitled Any Dream Will Do at Bicester Methodist Hall, Victoria Road, hosted by Bicester Floral Club. 7pm. Visitors £5.

WEDNESDAY

The 21st Century Gardener: Timothy Walker, retired director of Oxford Botanic Garden and RHS master of horticulture, will give a talk at Methodist Church, High Street, Witney, hosted by Witney Horticultural Society. 7.30pm. Visitors £3, members £1. 01993 702444.

Everest the Hard Way: Members of the 1975 expedition that reached the summit of the world's tallest mountain via its notoriously challenging south-west face, including Sir Chris Bonington, will give an illustrated lecture at the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford. Proceeds in aid of Community Action Nepal, to support communities affected by the recent earthquakes. 7pm. Adults £20, concessions £12.50 from 01865 778536 or www.canepal.org.uk

Kelmscott craft fair: Hand-crafted goods for sale at Morris Memorial Hall, Kelmscott, alongside an exhibition on the history of arts and crafts. Noon-5pm.

Free. 01367 253103 or kelmscott.org.uk

Fieldpaths walk: Eight-mile circular route via Great Haseley and Latchford, starting at the recreation ground, Tettsworth, ref SP68018, Bring refreshments. Dogs on leads. 10am. Jim Parke 01865 730664.

Comedy

FRIDAY

Purple Cactus Club: This popular comedy night returns to The Beacon, Portway, Wantage. 7.30pm. £10. 01235 763456, beaconwantage.co.uk/whats-on

SATURDAY

Glee Club, Oxford: Four comics from the UK and international circuit. 7.15pm. £14.50. 0871 472 0400.

Music

THURSDAY

Acoustic room: Musicians of all genres perform at the Winchester Room, St Mary's Church, Church Green, Witney, on the third Thursday of the month. 7.30pm.

FRIDAY

The Rollin' Clones: The Rolling Stones tribute act will perform at The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury. 8pm. £15.50. 01295 279002

Steve Ashall: Music from the last 60 years at General Foods S&S Club, Spiceball Park, Banbury. 9pm. Free. 01295 252852.

Ben Ottewell: The singer-songwriter from the successful band Gomez will play at the O2 Academy, Oxford. 6.30pm. £12.50. See <http://atnd.it/32231-0> or call 01865 813500

SATURDAY

Organ recital: Benjamin Nicholas will play the programme that John Scott played in his last recital in New York, featuring works by JS Bach. Merton College Chapel, Oxford. 4.15pm. Free, but there will be a retiring collection for the John Scott Memorial Fund.

Art Garfunkel: The singer, one half of Simon and Garfunkel – who has released 12 original solo albums – will be performing at the New Theatre, Oxford. 7.30pm. £43 from atgtickets.com/oxford

'Classical Gas': Concert featuring classical guitarist Raymond Burley and various friends at Aston Pottery, Bampton Road, Aston, in aid of Bampton Archive. 7.30pm. £20. 01993 850918.

Bendrix: Benji Kirkpatrick, a founding member of folk bands Bellowhead and Faustus, will tackle Jimi Hendrix songs, not on the guitar, but the bouzouki, banjo and mandolin, at Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot. 8pm. Adults £15, concessions £13.50. 01235 515144.

SUNDAY

Piano trio: Dan Mort (clarinet), Beth Levey (piano), Claire Parkin (violin) and

Emma Chamberlain (cello) perform Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time* at St Nicolas Church, Market Place, Abingdon. 3pm. £10/£9. 07775 904626.

TUESDAY

Wantage Male Voice Choir: New members welcome to attend rehearsals at Hanney War Memorial Hall, Brookside, East Hanney. There is no requirement to read music. 7.30pm. 01235 868440.

Wychwood Chorale: This no-audition choir, which sings a wide repertoire, is inviting people to join its Tuesday evening rehearsals at St Nicholas's Church, Chapel Road, Chadlington. 7.30-9pm. First session is free. See www.wychwoodchorale.org.uk or call Emma on 01608 659737 for details.

Theatre

THURSDAY

Waiting for Godot: Samuel Beckett's masterpiece is an anarchic meditation on the meaning of life and death, featuring two eccentric travellers. Cornerstone Arts Centre, Station Road, Didcot. 7.30pm. £10-£15. 01235 515144.

FRIDAY

The Kreutzer Sonata: Leo Tolstoy's novella about desire, death and Beethoven, adapted for the stage, is the story of a man who confesses to a terrible crime, holding the sonata responsible. The production, which runs at The Theatre, Chipping Norton, until Saturday, September 26, will feature nationally renowned RSC stage actor Greg Hicks, pianist Hannah Watson, of LSO St Luke's, and violinist Justin Wilman, of Cirque du Soleil. 7.45pm. Adults £15, concessions £13. 01608 642350.

SATURDAY

Paul Daniels: The magician and his assistant/wife Debbie McGee bring their Intimate Magic Show to the Corn Exchange, Wallingford. 7.45pm. £15. 01491 825000.

MONDAY

Hairspray: A new production of the smash hit musical, focusing on Tracy Turnblad's mission to dance her way on to national television, will be at the New Theatre, Oxford, until Saturday, September 26. 7.30pm (also 2.30pm Wednesday and Saturday). £22- £53 from atgtickets.com/oxford

WEDNESDAY

Another Man's Eden: Abingdon Drama Club presents the premiere of Tony Green's play about one 12-hour shift for medical staff at Camp Bastion, based on true-life events. Runs at the Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon, until Saturday, September 26. 7.30pm. £10, concessions £8 from The Bookstore, 15 Bury Street, Abingdon, or 0845 4636638

Dance

THURSDAY

Sequence and ballroom dancing: Woodstock Social Club, 44 Oxford Street. Teaching 7.30-8.45pm, practice session until 10.30pm. £2. 01993 811473

TUESDAY

Square dancing: Steventon Village Hall, The Green. New dancers welcome. No experience or partner needed. 7.30pm. First evening free, then £3.

CakeSport

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Chad leads the way



Banbury celebrate winning the Bernard Tollett Oxfordshire Cup

Picture: Steve Wheeler

Super Banbury beat Oxford to win Bernard Tollett final

A SUPERB all-round display by Chad Keegan finished the season on a high note with victory over Oxford in the OCB's Bernard Tollett Cup final at Abingdon Vale.

The 36-year-old former Middlesex player returned amazing figures of 6-22 in just four overs as Oxford were bowled for 120 in the last of their 20 overs on Sunday.

After opener Hugo Darby hit 47, man-of-the-match Keegan then capped Banbury's run chase, as well as his own fine performance.

He completed their seven-wicket victory with successive sixes, finishing on

39 not out.

So Banbury, who had to settle for runners-up spot behind champions High Wycombe in the Serious Cricket Home Counties Premier League Division 1, finished a successful season with some silverware.

Scores: Oxford 120 (C Keegan 6-22), Banbury 122-3 (H Darby 47, C Keegan 39no).

● FIVE Banbury players also featured for Oxfordshire in the Unicorns Counties Championship final at Carlisle.

However, Darby, Lloyd Sabin, Keegan, captain Luke Ryan and Karl Penhale could not prevent Oxon going down to a convincing ten-wicket defeat to Cumberland inside two days.

Goode helps Bulls record first victory

MATT Goode crossed twice as Banbury RFC kick-started their Midlands 2 West (South) campaign with a 24-20 win over Spartans at Bodicote.

Banbury opened up a 7-0 lead when Josh Deegan went over for a converted score.

The visitors levelled, before winger Joe Mills dived over for an unconverted try.

However, Spartans went into the break 15-12 ahead, thanks to a try and a drop goal.

Goode then dived over twice in the second half to help seal the four-try bonus point, Pickle converting both scores.

Spartans grabbed an unconverted try before the final whistle, but the hosts were still able to secure victory.

Banbury, who are third in the table after the first round of fixtures, welcome Barkers Butts to Bodicote on Saturday.

The Coventry-side drew 14-14 with Pinley last weekend.

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ARIES
Mar 21-Apr 19
Money can't buy happiness and lately I can see from your chart that you've been focusing on the material, rather than the emotional. Time spent with family and close ones helps you get back in touch with what and who is really important. It also helps you to decide your next step in career and home affairs. Ring now to hear why it's worth returning all phone calls and messages this week.
0906 585 4360

TAURUS
Apr 20-May 20
Slow your pace and try to take more time when doing projects this week. It's the key to you getting rid of that slapdash reputation Taurus. Someone you thought highly of lets you down, but wait until they've explained, as the stars suggest there is more to their story than first meets the eye. Slow and steady wins the race in relationships. Don't rush. Ring now to hear who I think is perfect for you.
0906 585 4361

GEMINI
May 21-Jun 20
Money may be a little hard to get your hands on at the beginning of the week and some of your sign may have to tell a white lie or two to cover their tracks. By the end of the week you agree mentally and physically to commit to a project which begins and exciting new chapter in your life. Ensure you deliver all promised work when you say you will. Your reputation is on the line. Ring now to reveal all.
0906 585 4362

CANCER
Jun 21-Jul 22
There are many rumours circulating over the coming days, some of which are true, others not. What is clear Cancer is that you no longer feel the same way about a situation in your life and you have until Friday to let the person know, before you get the reputation as a tease or a trouble maker. Don't use third parties to do so. Ring now so I can give you tactics to use.
0906 585 4363

LEO
Jul 23-Aug 22
Your routine is not sitting as well with you as it was and this seems to have a lot to do with the way you have been trying so hard to fit in with other people, rather than doing what was right for you. A forced change in the family is your signal to take a stand of independence. Grab it and run with it my friend. Ring now to hear why it's worth being on time and sticking to family plans.
0906 585 4364

VIRGO
Aug 23-Sep 22
An impatient mood could see you discouraging close ones who continue to make slow progress. Stop and think about how such negative comments could affect them Virgo. You would be far better to show them support and then they will do the same should your situation ever be reversed. Set a standard you would be willing to live with in return please. Ring now for a revelation in love.
0906 585 4365

LIBRA
Sep 23-Oct 22
This is an excellent week to put your time and energy into the relationships in your life. You can make progress where before you could only tread water. Mercury gives us all a better understanding of our close ones needs and we start to work towards more constructive actions rather than destructive ones. Ring now to hear how unexpected travel is a good thing.
0906 585 4366

SCORPIO
Oct 23-Nov 21
Don't let bitterness force you into saying things you know you will regret, but instead embrace your enemies Scorpio. This really is a month where it's a case of better the devil you know. You may not realise it, but you will soon have to work with or close to those you don't like, but only for a short time, so don't cut your nose off to spite your face. Ring now for answers to love.
0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 22-Dec 21
Patience may be hard to find, but I know it is there Sagittarius. Try to see the positive in every situation and you will soon start to feel like the bigger and better person. News of an ex gives you reason to feel happy you moved on and also confirms something you had guessed for a while anyway. A wise decision you reach in business seals a deal. Ring now for more on this productive time.
0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN
Dec 22-Jan 19
You seem to be worried about your close ones who are not looking after themselves as well as they should. Take time out of your day to talk to them, but don't give up your week or you could end up feeling their need for attention rather than actually helping them. A confusing week in love as your heart finds it hard to decide what it wants. Ring now to hear why time is on your side more than you think.
0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS
Jan 20-Feb 18
There seems to be a gap in your knowledge which needs to be filled and the sooner you start to seek ways of doing things which are more suited to your needs and desires, the happier you'll be. You have the right to have a personal life as well as a professional one you know Aquarius. Ring now to hear how people with accents can bring riches to your career this September.
0906 585 4370

PISCES
Feb 19-Mar 20
Those you are meeting may not turn up on time this week, but that doesn't mean that you can be late. In fact it is more important than ever that you show a professional attitude as those with the power are watching and ready and able to help you if you can show you have what it takes to get the job done! Family rifts can be healed on Friday. Ring now for more on this powerful time.
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In brief

- **BRITISH** buyers have been racing to order the new Ford Mustang, available in right-hand drive for the first time in the muscle car's 50-year history. Ford has almost 2,000 UK buyers waiting for a 'pony car'. The first UK-spec Mustangs will arrive in November and the US production line has been asked to make extra cars to cope with demand. Ford says 70 per cent of UK buyers have opted for the 5.0-litre V8. Most are specifying it with the six-speed manual gearbox. British buyers are also keen on the Custom Pack, which includes satellite navigation, uprated stereo, heated and cooled front seats, rear view camera and Luster Nickel alloy wheels. Red has proven to be the most popular colour. The Mustang costs from £29,995.
- **VOLKSWAGEN** is launching a special edition to mark the 40th anniversary of the Golf GTI in 2016. The Clubsport, with a turbocharged direct-injection engine, delivers 265 horsepower; 35 more than the previous most powerful version. Designers created new side sills, front bumper, rear diffuser, multi-part roof spoiler and forged alloy wheels. No price has been revealed.

CakeMotoring

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Rally heritage for real world driving

Auto facts

Model: Subaru Forester 2.0D XC Premium Lineartronic
Price: £30,995
Insurance group: 25E
Fuel consumption (Combined): 46.3mpg
Top speed: 117mph
Length: 459.5cm/181in
Width: 179.5cm/70.7in
Luggage capacity: 26.7 cu ft
Fuel tank capacity: 13.2 gallons/60 litres
CO2 emissions: 158g/km
Warranty: Five years/100,000 miles

By David Duffy
 david.duffy@nqo.com

THERE is no clue on the exterior of the Subaru Forester to the glorious motorsport heritage that underpins this modestly-styled off-roader.

But under the chunky bodywork of this best-selling sports utility vehicle lies engineering expertise derived from successful rallying campaigns, which led to triple victories for the Banbury-based Prodrive team in both the drivers and manufacturers categories of the World Rally Championship.

That background goes some way to explaining why such a large vehicle can handle in such a taut, car-like manner, while retaining towing and off-road capability.

While the exterior remains largely unchanged, with the exception of a shark-fin antenna, for 2015 Subaru has focused on creating a more relaxed drive.

Essential to this has been pairing a 2.0-litre horizontally-opposed 'boxer' diesel engine with automatic transmission.

Linked to the standard all-wheel-drive system, the automatic gearbox brings hill descent control and Subaru's X-Mode system, which intelligent-



ly manages power and torque, brakes and drivetrain to maintain traction.

Inside, the Forester has had an upmarket upgrade, with the dashboard now dominated by a seven-inch touchscreen 'infotainment' system.

It allows front seat occupants to control the satellite navigation and audio systems, with swiping and pinching in and out to zoom in on maps.

Drivers can also control the systems – as well as climate control – with voice commands. The 148-horsepower diesel engine has received modifications

to reduce noise, vibration and harshness and improve fuel economy. A common-rail injection system enables more precise combustion control, while glow plugs speed up engine heating for greater fuel efficiency from a cold start.

Subaru claims the 2015 Forester can return more than 45mpg and go from zero to 62mph in 9.6 seconds.

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2002 51	FORD MONDEO ZETEC 2.0 TDCi	5 door hatchback. Metallic Blue. Local car in very nice condition throughout. PAS. Alloys. Aircon Remote central locking. Electric windows and door mirrors. Radio/CD. Very nice example of this popular large diesel car. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt kit. HPI Clear.....	£1,995
2003 53	FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC	Silver. 5 door. Local car previously supplied by ourselves. PAS. Alloys. Aircon. Remote central locking. Radio/CD. Electric windows and door mirrors. Very tidy condition. Sold with a new MOT and a full service. HPI Clear.....	£1,895
2003 03	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 PETROL ELEGANCE	7 SEATER. Silver. MOT until March 2016.....	£1,395
2001 51	NISSAN MICRA 1.0 VIBE	5 doors. Metallic Blue. PAS. Radio/CD. Local car. Very tidy throughout. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear.....	£1,050
2009 59	RENAULT CLIO 1.2 EXTREME	Red. 3 Door. Local car previously supplied by ourselves. Approximately only 39000 recorded miles. PAS. Radio/CD. Remote central locking. Electric windows. Lovely condition throughout. Sold with a new MOT and a full service. HPI Clear.....	Arriving weekend

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Pirelli awards at Salon Privé LaFerrari races off with motor prize

THE Pirelli Award in the Prestige & Performance Competition at the Salon Privé supercar show, at Blenheim Palace, went to the Ferrari LaFerrari.

The owner, George Bamford, received a trophy featuring replica wind tunnel motorsport tyre.

The inaugural Pirelli Prestige & Performance Competition took place on the final day of the event and celebrated supercar models from 1975 to the present day.

The judging panel was made up of former racer Tiff Needell, Matteo Barbieri, who heads up Pirelli's international commercial focus on prestige, motoring journalist Jason Barlow, and racing

driver and TV presenter Vicki Butler-Henderson.

Winners and runner-ups were:

- **Pirelli Award:** Ferrari LaFerrari
- **Celebrating 40 Years of the Ferrari 308 GTB:** Ferrari 308 GTB
- **Celebrating 10 Years in Production of Bugatti Veyron:** Bugatti Veyron 16.4
- **Road or Race or Both:** KTM X-Bow GT / 2nd: Radical RXC 500 Twin Turbo Eco Boost
- **Built for Speed:** Ferrari 360 Challenge Stradale
- **Feel the Breeze:** Ferrari Superamerica / 2nd: BMW Z8
- **Grace & Pace:** Alfa Romeo 8C / 2nd: VVVX1
- **Pre-Millennium Supercars:**

Bugatti EB110 SS / 2nd: Ferrari 512 BBi

■ **Blink and it's Gone:** Ferrari LaFerrari / 2nd: Pagani Zonda S

■ **People's Choice:** Pagani Zonda S. Matteo Barbieri said: "There were so many beautiful cars, it was hard to pick the winners. The event was a real success and was truly aligned with our values and focus on the prestige market."

The Salon Privé co-founder and managing director, Andrew Bagley, said: "To see such a collection of super and hyper cars on display and then experience them in full flight as they went off over Great Vanbrugh Bridge was just incredible."

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 12.7 (22.3) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra urban: 23.9 (11.8) - 91.1 (3.1). Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO2 emissions: 373 - 88g/km[#]. Cost Price is on New Vauxhalls that can be taxed and registered by the 31st September 2015. 5 yrs 0% is on most new Vauxhalls, not all new Vauxhalls. Finance is subject to status. Terms and Conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Finance supplied by Vauxhall Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. We can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers, commission may be received. Offer will apply to private individuals. £500 Free Fuel offer not available on VIVA, Corsa Sting and Corsa Sting R. £500 Free Fuel will be supplied via pre-pay debit card. Purchase only, cannot be used to withdraw cash. Refer to www.vauxhall.co.uk/freefuel or contact your local Retailer for details. For orders between 18th and 21st September, on cars that can be registered by 31/09/2015. Sat Nav, Lucky Dip and cash back are for September registrations only. Sat nav is a Garmin. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors.

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